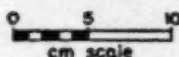


[ARCHERS]

[P.174-B]



285
252

FIG. 11. Fruit press, archers, Kilo District, East Ituri. An unusual utensil, found in the hunting camp of an eastern archer band, used for extracting juice.

GATHERING

Meat, however, forms only about 30 per cent of the diet (Schebesta, 1941, 11). The archers' staple is essentially vegetarian, and this is provided almost exclusively by women. First place goes to the plantains, sweet potatoes, and peanuts acquired from the villagers in return for meat or service. But the forest itself provides an abundance of roots, vegetables, fruits, nuts, and edible fungi, all of which the Pygmy uses. Schebesta gives no details as to the exact proportions of these various foodstuffs consumed, so it is impossible to get any idea of the dietetics of this group. He also mentions the place of snails and grubs, termites and ants, larvae, and certain types of snake in the diet. Fish form only a small part of the diet, but the womenfolk catch crabs and small fish in the shallow streams, using their hands or small nets.

262
[462]
[439]

[226] •

[NET HUNTERS]

[P. 208-A]

224 of elephant hunt known to him. The first makes use of a spear such as that described by Putnam, but the Pygmy, instead of thrusting it into the belly, creeps up behind the elephant and cuts the tendon above one of its heels. The elephant spins around, at which a second hunter, waiting for this action, leaps out of the bush and cuts the tendon of the other heel, thus bringing the elephant down, at which point it is easily killed—often by blinding it and then cutting off the trunk and leaving it to bleed to death. The second method makes use of a harpoon, and according to Schebesta, this is the method used among the net hunters. Here the harpoon is thrust into the belly, as described by Putnam, after which the Pygmy leaps clear. If thrust far enough, the elephant dies from lacerations caused by the dragging on the harpoon head as the attached cord snags on trees and undergrowth during the animal's flight.

[223] Men may individually kill monkeys and birds with their bows and arrows, supplementing their individual family food supply, and women out gathering may catch slow game with their hands. Children, and occasionally women, fish and catch crabs. Fishing seems more highly de-

• 226

[184] developed among the net hunters than among Schebesta's archers, as the net hunters know of certain grubs that make good bait and can be found in the *kukumu* tree, and also understand the use of poison for catching fish.

[NET HUNTERS]

[P. 209-B]

the use of poison for catching fish. The poison 226
(KiBira: *matungu*) is prepared from the bark of [278]
the *atungo* tree, and has been known to blind
people who get it in the eyes. Fish caught by 252
the children are placed by them in leaves with 857
salt and roasted on fire embers. Salt is obtained 263
either from plantain skins, or in the *ido*, which
are open, well-watered clearings found in the
forest. Children also hunt rats and mice with 857
their miniature bows and arrows. 224

GATHERING

As with the archers, gathering is mostly the 222
province of women and children (mainly wo- 462
men), though men will gather any edible food 857
they happen to pass. Gathering is an individual
rather than a collective activity. Gathering ac-
tivities that require the climbing of high trees,
such as the collection of most nuts, are under-
taken by men, who also collect termites, silk-
worms, and honey. The contribution of chil-
dren, though not organized, is appreciable.

The foods available are the same as those de- 222
scribed by Schebesta. It appears that the net
hunters make much fuller use of forest products,
the most important of which are nuts, edible
fungus, and edible roots, each of which can be
subdivided into a number of different species,
not only insuring a supply at all seasons, for
each species has its own season, but also variety.

[TEXT CONTINUED ON PAGE 209-B]